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**Introduced by Senator Cox**

February 18, 2005

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An act to add Chapter 3.55 (commencing with Section 44765) to Part 25 of the Education Code, relating to teachers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 498, as introduced, Cox. California Troops to Teachers Program.

Existing federal law, the Troops to Teachers Program, provides financial assistance to eligible military personnel to transition to a career in teaching. Under that existing law, grants may be provided to eligible individuals for up to \$5,000 to pay for teacher certification costs or for up to \$10,000 to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families.

This bill would enact the California Troops to Teachers Program. The bill would require the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to establish and maintain the program, which would be funded through the annual Budget Act. The bill would provide grants to qualified members of the Armed Forces selected by the commission who accept a teaching position in the public school system, with certain requirements.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Chapter 3.55 (commencing with Section 44765)
- 2 is added to Part 25 of the Education Code, to read:

1 CHAPTER 3.55. CALIFORNIA TROOPS TO TEACHERS PROGRAM

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3 44765. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the  
4 “California Troops To Teacher Program.”

5 44766. For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have  
6 the following meanings:

7 (a) “Commission” means the Commission on Teacher  
8 Credentialing.

9 (b) “Participant” means a member of the Armed Forces that is  
10 eligible and selected to receive a grant pursuant to Section 44767.

11 (c) “Program” means the California Troops to Teachers  
12 Program established in this chapter.

13 44767. (a) The commission shall establish and maintain the  
14 program, which shall be funded through an appropriation in the  
15 annual Budget Act.

16 (b) Members of the Armed Forces described in subdivision (a)  
17 of Section 6673 of Title 20 of the United States Code are eligible  
18 for selection to participate in the program.

19 (c) The commission shall develop and maintain an application  
20 process based upon eligibility for the program pursuant to  
21 subdivision (b) and, in selecting participants, shall give priority  
22 to members of the Armed Forces who have educational or  
23 military experience in science, mathematics, special education, or  
24 vocational or technical subjects and agree to seek employment as  
25 science, mathematics, special education, or vocational or  
26 technical teachers.

27 44768. (a) To receive a grant under this chapter, a member of  
28 the Armed Forces shall possess a valid credential pursuant to  
29 Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 44200) shall be selected as  
30 a program participant pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section  
31 44767, and shall enter into an agreement with the commission to  
32 accept an offer of full-time employment as a teacher in the public  
33 school system for not less than three school years.

34 (b) The commission shall pay a participant in this program  
35 who enters into an agreement pursuant to subdivision (a), a grant  
36 of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000). This grant shall be in addition  
37 to funds provided to the participant pursuant to the federal  
38 Troops to Teachers Program (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6672 et seq.), and  
39 any compensation for the services of the participant received  
40 from a school district.

1 (c) (1) If a participant voluntarily leaves, or is terminated for  
2 cause from, employment as a teacher in the public school system  
3 during the three years of required service in violation of the  
4 agreement required pursuant to subdivision (a), that participant  
5 shall reimburse the commission in an amount that bears the same  
6 ratio to the amount of the stipend or bonus as the unserved  
7 portion of required service bears to the three years of required  
8 service.

9 (2) A participant shall be excused from reimbursement under  
10 paragraph (1) if the participant becomes permanently totally  
11 disabled as established by a sworn affidavit of a qualified  
12 physician. The commission may also waive the reimbursement in  
13 cases of extreme hardship to the participant, as determined by the  
14 commission.